



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2022 • VOL. 24 • NO. 3

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

VIRTUAL SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES: THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE ‘MEN IN BLACK’



A self-made UFO above Meersburg, Germany.
Image: Stefan XP, Wikimedia Commons

On Saturday, March 12, join attorney and screenwriter **Steve Edmiston** to learn how the Pacific Northwest spawned the most enduring characters in UFO history. For details and to register, see p. 4.

- President **John Oftebro** calls for new Board members, p. 3.
- RHS co-sponsors library talk on March 9, “The Story of Sumi Artist Fumiko Kimura” with author **David Berger**, p. 5.
- **Tom Hitzroth** investigates Redmond’s century-old buildings, p. 6.
- Society profiles Family Lifetime members **Gene and Cheryl Magnuson**, p. 8.

2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

John Oftebro • President
Laura Lee Bennett • Senior Vice President
Open • Vice President Finance
Mary Horabik • Vice President Collections
Deborah Oftebro • Secretary

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Ed "Dint" O'Brien
Janie Bube
Paige Norman
Jo Ann Potter

ADMINISTRATIVE & COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Halee P. Turner

Our finances are public record and may be viewed at the office.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Open

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Teresa Potter • Urban Dakota Creative

PROOFREADERS

Tom Hitzroth, Taylor Fievez

FREE NEWSLETTER

If you don't subscribe, please sign up.
Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.
State your preference of email or U.S. Mail.
The Historical Society prefers email as it's inexpensive and photos are enhanced online.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society/>

THE REDMOND RECORDER

is published ten times annually.

PHONE 425.885.2919

ADDRESS 16600 NE 80th Street #122
Redmond, WA 98052

WEBSITE redmondhistoricalsociety.org

EMAIL info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org

HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIETY CO-HOSTS 'ART AND MEMORY' SHOW

In honor of Women's History Month, the Society is partnering with Venues for Artists in the Local Area (VALA) to display artworks by Redmond residents **Dorisjean Colvin** and **Loana "Barney" Johnson Reilly**. The exhibit, "Art and Memory: Viewing Redmond's History with an Artist's Eye," runs through March at VALA Art Center, 8020 161st Ave NE #104, Redmond, WA 98052. Opening reception 6 PM, Saturday March 5, 2022. More info: www.valaeastside.org.



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Society Partners with Sotheby's International Realty

Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty brokers **Cynthia Olsen** and **Mary Sullivan** have formed a unique partnership with the Redmond Historical Society in an effort to help raise money for the Society. Sotheby's International Realty will give 10% of commissions to support the Redmond Historical Society when you or someone you refer buys or sells property. Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty established this program as a way to give back to organizations that are committed to the welfare of our communities. For more information, contact Cynthia Olsen at cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com, 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com, 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT YOU!

By John Oftebro

In Jo Ann's monthly column, "Volunteer Corner," you've read inspiring stories shared by some of our volunteers. Common themes include satisfaction in serving, meeting new people, being part of a team, and reaping positive rewards from participation in successful events.

Now that we're back in the Old Redmond School House, we'll be welcoming visitors and training docents for museum tours. While we've relied on help from several volunteers at our Saturday Speaker Series prior to the pandemic, we hope to revive that wonderful Saturday experience in the fall, when we gather as a group again. Meanwhile, we have three Board positions opening up. In addition, we're looking for help with marketing, bookkeeping, collections, and tech support.

Marketing: Assist our team in promoting various events, membership, and our brand

Bookkeeping: QuickBooks posting, data entry, and monthly financial reports

Collections: Data entry of our collections in PastPerfect

Tech support: Assist with our website

Docent: Become a tour guide/docent at our beautiful new museum/office

We'd like to acknowledge the three members who are rotating off the Board: **ChuNi Kao**—many thanks for streamlining our website conversion; **John Watson**—many thanks for reorganizing our banking system; and **Sue-Lynn Walsh**—for helping where needed. Thank you all for supporting our activities and events. Your dedication to help preserve Redmond's rich history has been wonderful!

If you have a few hours a month that you can spare—and enjoy some quality time on our team—please reach out to me, **Halee Turner**, our Administrative Manager, or **Jo Ann Potter**, our Volunteer Coordinator, and we'll find a match for your experience and skillset that is comfortable for you.

As the Redmond Historical Society evolves, so do the people who come and go, their roles and contributions who help create, sustain, and keep our evolution going. So, as you can see, *We Need You!*

HAROLD DAHL'S CONTROVERSIAL LEGACY

Harold Dahl's tragic June 21, 1947 UFO sighting over Puget Sound is the launch pad for the origins of what we now know as the "Men in Black." Relying upon FBI, Army, and Air Force records, speaker **Steve Edmiston** explores the controversial legacy of "The Maury Island Incident," including the detailed investigations by a courageous Tacoma-based FBI Special Agent. The program examines the Maury Island Incident's tragic aftermath, the involvement of J. Edgar Hoover, and the appearance of, and warnings by, history's first alleged "man in black." Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Dahl's sighting, Steve will discuss the making of the film, *The Maury Island Incident*, the commercial and cultural significance of Dahl's original "men in black" story, and how others have sought to claim that they were first to encounter these iconic, mythological characters.

Steve Edmiston (he/him) is a business and entertainment lawyer with Bracepoint Law, an indie film screenwriter and producer, and founder of Quadrant45. He is an appointee to the 2021-2023 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau. Steve is also



Steve Edmiston,
Attorney and Screenwriter

the screenwriter and producer of four feature films; his award-winning short film, *The Maury Island Incident*, premiered as a web-series on Hulu. He has keynoted for the Washington State Historical Museum, Smith Tower Rumrunner's Club, and McMenamins History Pubs and UFO Festival. He has appeared on the Travel Channel's *Legendary Locations* and SyFy Channel's *Ancient Aliens*.

Time and Date: March 12, 2022
10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Registration is required. To sign up for this free online presentation, please register at <https://www.tinyurl.com/RHSMenInBlack>

PERSIMMON AND FROG: THE STORY OF SUMI ARTIST FUMIKO KIMURA

Fumiko Kimura survives a terrible childhood accident and wartime stress to become a powerful sumi ink artist. Part memoir and part artistic survey, *Persimmon and Frog, My Life and Art, a Kibei-Nisei's Story of Self-Discovery*, takes Kimura's writings, diaries, and interviews, and traces her artistic development from early watercolors of Tacoma's industrial waterfront to recent calligraphic paintings that poignantly engage Eastern and Western influences. The book deftly profiles both her personal life and artistic aspirations, telling a story of profound resilience, independence, and artistic accomplishment.

Sponsored by the Redmond Historical Society, the Redmond Library, and the KCLS Arts and Culture Programming Team.

David Berger is an author, visual artist, and poet, and was visual arts critic at *The Seattle Times*. In addition to *Persimmon and Frog: My Life and Art* ([Chin Music Press](#), 2020), about Fumiko Kimura, he wrote *Razor Clams: Buried Treasure of the Pacific Northwest* ([University of Washington Press](#), 2017). He lives in Seattle.

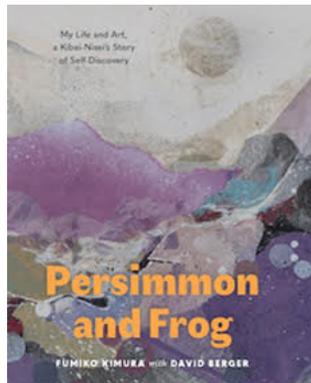
Time and Date: March 9, 2022
7:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)



Author David Berger

Registration is required. To sign up for this free online presentation, please register by 5 PM March 8, 2022. You will be emailed a Zoom link on the evening of March 8.

To register: <https://tinyurl.com/PersimmonAndFrog>



kcls.org

REDMOND'S CENTURY-OLD BUILDINGS

By Tom Hitzroth

This year, the Old Redmond School House (ORSH) turns 100 with the first of the four construction stages. In 1922 the outer shell of the high school portion was completed, although students did not actually begin classes there until September 4, 1923. ORSH joins a select company of 11 other locations in town that have reached the century mark. They are:

Building	Year	Age	Use Today
+Hotel Redmond	1897/1898	125	Jensen Fey Architects
+Odd Fellows Hall	1903	119	Redmond's Bar & Grill
Lodging House	1903	119	Edge & Spoke
Skjarstad's Shoe Store	1904	118	One Hour Device Repair
Redmond Trading Company	1906	116	Half Price Books*
+Redmond State Bank	1911	111	Homegrown
+Brown Building	1913	109	The Matador
Lampaert's Meat Market	1914	108	North half of Palmers
Redmond Drug Company	1915	107	El Toreador
+Stone House	1916	106	Stone House Cafe
+Bill Brown's Garage	1920	102	Homestreet Bank, Trek Bicycle

*Only the three outer brick walls remain of the original brick building.

+ Buildings that have attained landmark designation status by the Redmond Regional Landmarks Commission.

Two buildings in town have the singular distinction of being used for the same purpose for a hundred years or more. They are Skjarstad's Shoe Store, which operated from 1904 to 2006, and the Old Redmond School House.

As Redmond's growth and development continues to transport it into the 21st century it is extraordinary that so many of its earliest buildings (and businesses) have survived to tell of Redmond's earliest commercial history. Redmond has successfully woven the old with the new, creating a unique record of how its past can blend into its future.



**Construction of the high school portion of the school house, ca. 1921.
Source: RHS Archives**

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2022 WALKING TOURS

Since 2003, Tom Hitzroth has led walking tours of Redmond's historic district. Over the years, the tour has evolved from one hour to two, with the script changing as new information is discovered. This year, the tour will incorporate the site of a newly discovered hotel and the site of a 1905 homicide.

A lifelong Eastside resident, Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond's development from its earliest time into the 1930s. He is currently investigating the historic site of the settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond, the land claim area of Redmond, and the historic development of the downtown.



**Tom Hitzroth in front of Justice White House/
Hotel Redmond.
Photo: John Oftebro**



2022 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday May 15, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday June 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday August 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday September 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled rain or shine and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St.

Please be advised that proof of vaccination or a negative test result is not required for this outdoor tour, but masks are encouraged. These events also include a significant amount of walking or standing, with limited opportunities for resting. We recommend wearing comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bringing a water bottle.

Tickets are available for \$10 per person on the Events page at [RedmondHistoricalSociety.org](https://www.RedmondHistoricalSociety.org). Registration is required by the Wednesday prior to the tour, and tours are limited to 10 participants. To ensure the group maximum is not exceeded, please make sure your registration includes every member of your party. For further questions, please call our office at 425-885-2919.

GENE AND CHERYL MAGNUSON – FAMILY LIFETIME MEMBERS

By Paige Norman

The Magnusons are members of one of the earliest pioneer families in Redmond. **Charles Isackson** arrived from Sweden with two of his brothers in the 1890s. His wife, **Anna**, and oldest daughter, **Edith**, joined Charles and settled in the Happy Valley. Their daughter, Edith, married **George Magnuson**. George and Edith's son **Albert** was Gene's father.

Gene Magnuson has served on the RHS board as Vice President of Collections and created a variety of displays around the community. He can also be found helping at many of the Society's in-person events. He is an avid fisherman, historian, and gardener.

Cheryl Strong Magnuson was raised in Sultan, moving to Redmond when she was 14. She graduated from Redmond High School in 1967. Cheryl volunteers in a multitude of organizations, including keeping the Society's Facebook page updated with photos of historical and current buildings. Cheryl performs with several musical groups.



Gene and Cheryl Magnuson

Cheryl has also curated a number of exhibits at the Redmond Library, using items from the Magnuson's own collection and from the Society's.

Cheryl and Gene are active members of the Happy Valley Grange and joined the Redmond Historical Society during its first year.

Editor's Note: A longer version of this article appears on the RHS website: <https://tinyurl.com/Gene-AndCherylMagnuson>

242 HOURS VOLUNTEERED!

Joe Townsend and **Dale Potter** met with **Halee Turner**, our Office Manager, to discuss organizing and updating the inventory of artifacts at the Martin Park facility. They spent hours at the “barn” taking notes, photographing, and generating ideas for future attention, using **Gene Magnuson’s** 2013 photos and descriptions as a reference. Interesting artifacts included a Boy Scout uniform, a fireman’s turn-out coat, historic signs, a 1937 Redmond Golf Club Captain’s Trophy, a mantel clock,

a miniature hay wagon, and a Dudley Carter cast model titled *Sea Lion Beast*.

WELCOME to our newest volunteers, **Shyla Bathla** and **Nicole Mihaylova**. Shyla is a freshman at Redmond High School and is seeking volunteer opportunities. Nicole is interested in assisting in the Saturday Speaker Series and the Saturday Market. She is also willing to research topics and digitize information from print.

A VOLUNTEER VOICE

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year. But when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

— *Dr Syed Muhammad Zeeshan Hussain Almashhadi*



A mantel clock at Martin Park. Photo: Dale Potter

TWO REDMOND FAMILIES, ONE EXECUTIVE ORDER: JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION IN WA

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which allowed the U.S. military to forcibly remove any Japanese Americans living on the West Coast and incarcerate them in camps, euphemistically called “War Relocation Centers.” This forced relocation order affected two Redmond High seniors, **Chizuko Tamaye** and **Kaora Tokunaga**. Each family responded differently to this order. The Society had a temporary exhibit at the Redmond Library last month. For more info, go to <https://tinyurl.com/RHSExecOrder>.

OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sharon Freeman, Ballisty
Louise Graep Barnes
David Best
John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
John Couch
Cory de Jong
Sally Jo Eberhardt
Betty L. Emmanuel
Tony Emmanuel
Elaine Sween Etzler
Don and Mary Fowler
Frank Garbarino
Peggy Garbarino
Madeleine Roberts Hagen
Suzanne Hall
Mary Hanson
Jerry Hardy
Chris Himes
Duane Isackson
Rosemarie Ives
Patricia Weiss Jovag

Barbara Weiss Joyce
Allen Lang
Judy Aries Lang
Judith M. Lankford
Miguel Angel Llanos
*Cheryl Strong Magnuson
*Gene Magnuson
Jon M. Magnussen
Dorothy Matsui
Diana Morelli
Panfilo Morelli
Allison Reed Morris
Edward O'Brien
Deborah Oftebro
John Oftebro
LeRoy Olson
Dale Potter
Jo Ann Potter
Bobbie Graep Rettig
Dave Rockenbeck
Laurie M. Rockenbeck
Margy U. Rockenbeck

William Rockenbeck
Doris Bauer Schaible
Dick Shinstrom
Karen Snapp
Frederick Springsteel
Beryl Standley
John C. Stilin
Sherry B. Stilin
Fred Stray
Larry O. Sundholm
Subhadra Terhanian
Doris Townsend
Joe Townsend
Patricia Trepanier
Roger Trepanier
Sue-Lynn Walsh
Patti Simpson Ward
Donald Glennister Watts
Joanne Westlund
James Windle

An asterisk (*) indicates Family Lifetime members. A full listing of Lifetime Members, both current and in memoriam, is available at redmondhistoricalsociety.org.



**REDMOND
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2022 MEMBERSHIP**

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

Trailblazer/Student (1 member)	\$5	_____
Pioneer/Individual (1 member)	\$25	_____
Homesteader/Family (2 members)	\$40	_____
Visionary/Business	\$250	_____
History Maker/Lifetime (1 member)	\$1,000	_____
Legacy/Family Lifetime (2 members)	\$2,000	_____

I'd like to be a Sustaining Partner through annual donations in addition to my membership.

Membership Names: 1) _____ 2) _____

Address: _____ Unit# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthdate Member 1 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

Birthdate Member 2 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

- Address Change New Member Renewal Gift membership
 New to Redmond I am interested in being a volunteer

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16600 NE 80th Street • Redmond, WA 98052

You may also renew or purchase a membership through our website at
<http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org>

The Redmond Recorder is available via email and viewable on our website. You may request a paper copy by contacting our office at info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Old Redmond Schoolhouse
16600 NE 80th Street
Room 122
Redmond, WA 98052

MAJOR SPONSORS

